

Administration Report
of the
Native State and Frontier Tribe
of Assam.

For the year
1897 — 1898

Annual Report
of the
Native States and Frontier Tribes
of Assam
for the year

1897-1898

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NATIVE STATES AND FRONTIER TRIBES
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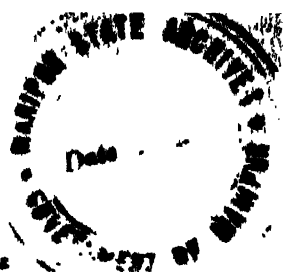
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RAL SUMMARY.

THE political relations of this Administration with frontier tribes were peaceful, and
General remarks. there were no expeditions beyond the frontier.

Manipur.—One murder of the head-taking type was committed by Kukis in the hills west of the Imphal Valley, but the perpetrators have not as yet been brought to justice. Good progress was made with the preparation of the old Royal enclosure known as the Pat for cantonment purposes, and the construction of barracks for the regiment as begun. The Kohima-Manipur cart-road was open during the year, but traffic is almost impossible in wet weather. The minor Raja and his half-brother continued to reside at the Mayo College throughout the year. Certain improvements were introduced in the land revenue administration of the State, which has been placed under the supervision of a Sub-Deputy Collector, seconded from the provincial list. The total revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 3,46,709 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,98,133. The closing credit balance was Rs. 1,76,644, and the finances of the State are in a satisfactory condition. The Chief Commissioner visited Manipur during the year, when he inspected the public buildings and offices and the State Military Police. He directed that arrangements should be made for the young Raja to visit Manipur during the following cold weather. Enquiries were made with a view to selecting a site for the future residence of the Raja.

Bhutias.—There is said to have been an improvement in the attendance of Bhutias at fairs in Kamrup district and a falling off in Darrang. These fluctuations have not been clearly accounted for, nor are the statistics trustworthy. A number of Bhutias, the majority of whom were previously residents in British territory on the Kamrup frontier, migrated to the Khasi Hills, where they have been permitted to settle. The Oomla Lama asked that they should be sent back, but was informed that his request could not be granted. It is not anticipated that this incident will give rise to any trouble.

Daflas.—The Daflas on the borders of Darrang and North Lakhimpur behaved well on the whole. A party of coolies who had deserted from the Dikrai tea garden in Darrang and wandered into the Dafla Hills, were detained by the Hill Daflas. In order to compel their restoration to the garden, payment of *posa* to the Hill Daflas was stopped. Five of the coolies have since been returned by them and two remain in their hands.

Apa Tanangs.—A small party of these people visited British territory and gave no trouble.

Mishmis.—These tribes behaved well throughout the year.

Bor Abors.—The blockade against this tribe is still enforced, but it is proposed to raise it next cold weather, if the tribe continues quiet.

Passi Meyongs.—A few families of this tribe have settled in British territory, where they have been permitted to remain, on condition of good behaviour and payment of poll-tax.

Digarus, Singphos, Khamtis, and Miris.—These tribes gave no trouble during the year.

Nagas.—The Nagas on the frontier of Assam and Sikkim, as was the case last year, the inhabitants of certain villages in Margherita were guilty of petty thefts from the mines and of Assam Railways and Trading Company. The Military Police post at Ledo strengthened, and a guard posted at Tikat, and arrangements made for regular patrolling the works. Since these measures were taken, no thefts have occurred. The Bengali boy referred to in last year's Summary, who was sold to a Naga in interior of the hills, has been recovered. It has been arranged that Mr. Needham, Assistant Political Officer at Sadiya, shall visit Margherita periodically with a view establishing a firmer political control over the Nagas of the Patkoi than it has been possible to exercise hitherto. In the Sema country, the village of Kyaku raided village of Sakhai, killing 17 persons. The Deputy Commissioner of the Naga Hills visited the offending village and imposed a fine of Rs. 1,000; as this was not paid the village was burnt. The fine imposed was then partially realised in kind; villagers have since paid up a portion of the balance and been permitted to work the remainder by punishment labour.

Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills.—No events of political importance occurred in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills districts during the year.

North Lushai Hills.—There were no political troubles in the North Lushai Hills and the arrangements for the transfer of the South Lushai Hills to Assam, including the amalgamation of the North and South Lushai Military Police battalions, were carried out without difficulty. A Civil Police force for the amalgamated area subsidiary to the Military Police was organised during the year. The rate of house-tax in North Lushai Hills was raised from Re. 1 to Rs. 2 per house, and the realization of tax at the increased rate did not occasion any trouble. Rules regarding impressment labour were introduced simultaneously in the North and South Lushai Hills in communication with the Government of Bengal. The Aijal-Lungleh road was made passable for laden animals up to a distance of 29 miles from Aijal, and the trace of the Aijal-Falam road was carried to within a few miles of Champhai.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

NATIVE STATES AND FRONTIER TRIBES

OF ASSAM

FOR THE YEAR

1897-98.

MANIPUR.

1. In the absence of Lieutenant-Colonel H. St. P. Maxwell, C.B., officiating as Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, the officiating appointment of Political Agent in Manipur and Superintendent of the State was held by Captain H. W. G. Cole from 1st April to 3rd July, from which date to the end of the year Mr. A. Porteous held charge.

The post of Assistant to the Political Agent was vacant throughout the year.

The newly-created post of Sub-Deputy Collector in charge of the land revenue administration of the State, and of survey and settlement operations in the Manipur Valley, was held by Babu Raj Kumar Rai, Sub-Deputy Collector, Assam, from August and, when he joined the appointment, to the close of the year.

2. The following passages are extracted from the Administration Report for the year submitted by Mr. Porteous :

"2. Including single day visits of inspection and residence at Kanchupkul, the Political Agent was on tour 103 days, as against 145 in the previous year. Out of this total, I was on tour 55, and Captain Cole 47 days. Owing to the Political Agent being single-handed throughout the year, no prolonged tours were made in the hill tracts of the State. The following were the principal tours made during the year:

"From the 22nd to 29th April, Captain Cole was engaged in a local enquiry at Kairong and Mao Thana into the murder of a Bengali on the Kohima road.

"From the 11th to the 17th October I was in camp at Sengmai, Kaibru hill and Mayangkhang.

"From the 19th to the 26th January, and again from the 2nd February to the 9th February, I was in camp on the Kohima road, proceeding on both occasions to Mao Thana in connection with the Chief Commissioner's visit to Manipur.

"From the 7th to the 18th March I was on inspection duty on the Jhirighat bridle-path, and from the 18th to the 20th I was in camp at Bishenpur, visiting also Moirang.

"From the 26th to the 28th March I was on tour on the Burma road, visiting Thobal and Polel.

"Sub-Deputy Collector Babu Raj Kumar Rai was on tour 106 days, visiting all parts of the valley.

"3. The demarcation of the portion of the north-east frontier of the State referred to in last year's report, was, on further consideration, decided to be unnecessary, as the boundary fixed in 1883 follows for the most part well-marked natural features; and now that it has been settled that the villages in the Sany basin are not to be handed over to Manipur, it would not have been worth while to re-open the question merely for the sake of one or two villages, in particular Tasom and Wakhong, which being, in fact, administered by Manipur ought also perhaps to be included within its *de jure* limits.

"The erection of stone prisms along the Chin-Manipur frontier, as fixed in March 1894, was carried out by an officer from the Chin Hills at the close of the year 1896-97, and not having been alluded to in last year's report is here noted.

"It had been intended that the settlement of the Manipur-Lushai boundary, from Lungle hill westwards to Tipaimukh, should be carried out during the cold weather, and the Political Agent, Manipur, and the Political Officer, North Lushai Hills, were appointed commissioners for the purpose; but owing to the services of a surveyor not being available and other reasons, the matter had again to be postponed. It was, however, informally settled between Major Shakespeare and myself that, if practicable, the boundary line should be made to follow the Tuivai river throughout, cutting off only the loop of that river enclosing the Kailash range, which projects into the Manipur territory.

" 4. The hill tribes, with some reservation as regards the Kukis, gave little trouble during the year. One murder of the head-taking type was committed by a party of Kukis in the hills west of the valley, and one or two minor outrages in the southern hills are also to be put down to the same tribe. No organised raids, however, occurred, and no serious inter-tribal disturbances of any kind involving villages within Manipur territory, were reported from any of our frontiers.

Behaviour of hill tribes.

" A very satisfactory feature was the entire absence throughout the year of crimes of violence on the public roads, as well as the Kohima cart-road as on the other main lines of communication in the State. The sharp lesson read the large villages near Mao Thana, last year in connection with the murders on the cart-road, has apparently had a salutary effect.

" The case of head-taking above referred to occurred in February, the victim being a young Kabui Naga girl of Hauchong village, who was cruelly murdered by a band of four Kukis, the identity of whom strict enquiry has as yet failed to discover. The girl was on a journey to the Manipur valley, accompanied by an uncle, when they were suddenly attacked by a party of four Kukis, while resting by a stream. The man made good his escape, but the girl was overtaken and killed, her head being carried off. No reliable clue to the village of the murderers has as yet been found.

" In the south of the State two cases of a not very serious character, the work, it is believed of Chins or Kukis, occurred in the cold weather, one a dacoity at the camp on the Manipur river south of Shuganu, of some Burmese wood-cutters, whose property was looted, as it is believed, by a party of Kamhows from the Chin Hills village of Datum, and the other an attack on some boy of the Kom village of Sagang, near Shuganu, by some Kukis, who, from an ambush in the jungle fired two or three shots and then retreated, doing no further damage than killing a buffalo. The village of Saikot was suspected of the latter outrage, and its chief kept in confinement for some months, but nothing could be proved against him, and he was released.

" Of ordinary crime attended by loss of life, two cases only were reported from the hill tract during the year. Two Tangkhuls of Phungtarr, a small hamlet of four houses, were charged by fellow-villager with the murder of his wife and the attempted murder of himself, the weapons used being spears. The case was not reported until two months after its alleged occurrence, and owing to this circumstance, and to the lack of independent evidence as to the facts of the case among so small a community, the charge of murder was found not proven at the trial of the two men held after the close of the year.

" In another case a Kabui Naga from Kandihang village, on the Cachar frontier, was charged with the murder of a fellow-villager by shooting him with a gun. The man was tried after the close of the year. Proof being given that the deceased had violated the wife of the accused, the latter in view of this provocation, was found guilty of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and was sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment.

" In the case of the murder of a Bengali on the Kohima cart-road referred to in last year's report, a Naga named Loli was convicted of the murder and sentenced to death by Captain Col. but the conviction was subsequently reversed by the Chief Commissioner.

" Impressed labour, supplied by the hillmen, was, as usual, furnished extensively to the Public Works Department, mainly for the carriage of lime from Ukhrul in the Tangkhul hills and for work on the Kohima cart-road.

" A sum of Rs. 4,614 was realised in fines from hill villages, against Rs. 4,477 in 1896-9. Of this amount, Rs. 4,118 was levied in connection with the punitive measures taken against the northern villages for outrages committed on the cart-road.

Weather, crops, and prices.

" 5. The following table compares the rainfall of the year, month by month, with that of the four preceding years :

Months.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
April	2'76	7'05	9'42	6'64	4'44
May	13'08	8'34	10'68	5'16	6'96
June	26'30	9'88	13'64	10'16	15'46
July	17'44	11'02	16'66	13'97	6'82
August	9'20	16'48	13'16	7'27	13'76
September	3'92	5'24	6'29	8'07	7'82
October	5'29	8'54	6'92	...	8'40
November	0'73	8'02	0'88	0'52	4'88
December	0'58	1'14	4'94	...	...
January ... ..	...	0'44	4'46	...	0'92
February	3'33	0'09	9'75	0'58	1'52
March	14'38	4'11	3'34	5'02	0'18
Total	97'01	82'35	97'11	57'39	61'84

" Although in excess of that of the previous year, the rainfall was below the average. It was however, well distributed throughout the cultivating season, and the result was a bountiful harvest both the early and late rice crops yielding a good outturn. There were no floods during the year and the rivers and dhils were never really filled, the Logtak lake in the cold weather being extraordinarily low. The usual March rains almost entirely failed, causing a great scarcity of water the close of the year. Probably, connected with this failure was the lateness of the date, interesting as illustrating the climate of Manipur, to which the cold-weather frosts continued. There was a morning hoar-frost in the valley as late as March 7th.

"As a result of the excellent harvest, the price of common rice, which stood as high as Rs. 3-8 per maund in June, fell to Re. 1-6 in January, notwithstanding the re-opening of export (which had been closed for more than a year) from the beginning of December. The price at the close of the year, after an export of upwards of 11,000 maunds to Kohima, had risen to Re. 1-10 only. The small rise in value shows that in a year of good harvests, we have nothing to fear from a free export, and, as Kohima station is practically the only outside market at which Manipur rice can be profitably sold, and its demands are necessarily very limited in comparison to the production of the Manipur Valley (which at a moderate computation may be put at 12 million maunds of paddy), I am inclined to doubt the expediency of any prohibition on free export in the future. Such a measure, if constantly threatened, must tend to defeat its own object by depressing prices, and so discouraging the extension of cultivation, while the whole amount of rice absorbed by Kohima, say, 15,000 maunds, would not, in any case, furnish more than four days' consumption for the inhabitants of the valley.

"The minor crops cultivated by the Manipuris, *matikalai*, peas, and sugarcane, gave a deficient outturn owing to the short rainfall in December and January. Wheat, cultivated in patches by foreigners, was, however, a success.

"6. Statistics of trade with British India are registered at Jhirighat for traffic with Cachar and Bengal, and at Mao Thana for traffic with Kohima and Assam. The latter have been collected during the past year for the first time under arrangements made by Captain Cole. In neither case must too great reliance be placed on the accuracy of the figures.

"The following table compares the value of the principal imports into Manipur for the past four years as registered on the Cachar route :

Articles,					1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Mineral oil	...	...	...	...	4,132	4,405	11,314	24,318
Betel-nuts	...	...	...	...	14,803	12,944	15,027	26,414
Dried fish	...	...	...	...	417	2,825	9,823	15,307
Salt	...	...	...	...	39	414	1,112	1,889
Piece-goods	...	...	...	...	34,424	14,347	15,138	27,827
Yarn	...	...	...	...	16,093	6,575	7,440	6,477
Metals	...	...	...	...	2,341	2,238	3,338	5,440
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	11,208	11,148	4,401	6,642
Total	...	...	...	...	83,457	54,896	67,593	1,14,374

"It will be seen that a large expansion occurred under almost every head, notwithstanding the competition of the cart traffic *via* Kohima. The increase is undoubtedly due to the prosperous condition of the people consequent on the excellent harvest.

"The values of imports under the same heads by the Kohima route, omitting betel-nuts and dried fish, which come from Cachar only, were as follows :

Articles,								1897-98.
								Rs.
Mineral oil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,380
Salt	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	745
Piece-goods and yarn	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,848
Metals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,870
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26,110
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50,953

"The smallness of the import of salt by both routes is noticeable. Manipur, however, produces internally the bulk of the salt consumed by its inhabitants, and the greater part of its import of foreign salt comes *via* Tammu, the determining causes in favour of that route being the lower duty on the Rangoon-imported article, and the comparative shortness of the hill transit from the Kubo Valley.

"The only exports of importance from Manipur are tea seed, cattle, and rice. The statistics of value are shown in the annexed table.

				Exports to Kohima	Exports to Cachar.	Total.
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cattle	...	...	...	...	40,571	40,570
Tea-seed	...	...	...	...	25,800	25,800
Rice	...	...	...	20,716	...	20,716
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	568	5,204	5,772
Total	...	...	...	21,284	71,574	92,858

"As compared with 1896-97, when exports to Cachar were valued at Rs. 1,86,488, the above figures show an extraordinary falling-off, due entirely to a decline in the tea-seed trade. The export of tea-seed, which amounted to 4,351 maunds, valued at Rs. 1,74,049 in the former year, fell to 645 maunds, valued at Rs. 25,800 in the year under review. Great losses were incurred in this trade in 1896-97; hence probably the decline.

"On the subject of manufactures, I have no remarks to offer. I regret to say that no enquiries for Manipur silks have followed the efforts made by Captain Cole to create a demand for them in England.

"7. In Appendix A, Parts I and II, are given statements of the revenue and expenditure of the State for the past year, together with corresponding figures for the three preceding years.

Finance.

"The revenue realised amounted to Rs. 3,46,709, as against Rs. 3,19,445 in the year previous. If the sale price of the State zamindaris be excluded from the total of the receipts for 1895-96, the revenue of the year just closed exceeds the total of 1895-96, hitherto the highest recorded, by Rs. 21,003. This favourable result is due principally to the more punctual realisation of current land revenue and *lalup* house-tax, but also to the energy displayed by Sub-Deputy Collector Babu Raj Kumar Rai in the collection of outstanding arrears under those heads. The gross expenditure of the year was Rs. 2,98,133, against an estimated expenditure of Rs. 2,99,700 and an actual expenditure of Rs. 3,02,072 in 1896-97.

"There were increases under heads Land Revenue, Raja's Civil List, State establishment, and State works, but decreases of more than corresponding amounts under Police, Jails, and other heads.

"The closing balance shows a sum of Rs. 1,76,644 at credit of the State as against Rs. 1,28,068 on March 31st, 1897. This sum being larger than the State requires to maintain as a current balance, application has been made for sanction to invest a sum of Rs. 50,000 in Government paper.

"8. It was noted in last year's report that the services of a Sub-Deputy Collector had been applied for to supervise the land revenue administration of the State, and in response to this application, Babu Raj Kumar Rai

Land revenue.

was nominated to the post, and joined his appointment in August. The system of land revenue administration hitherto in force was described last year by Captain Cole. Four *lakpas*, officials whose position is a sort of compromise between that of *tahsildar* and *mauzadar* in Assam, held charge of the four divisions called *pannas*, into which the Manipur Valley is divided, receiving, in lieu of pay, commission at the rate of 10 per cent. on their collections of land revenue and *lalup* house-tax. These collections have averaged annually about half a lakh per *panna*. Out of their commission, *lakpas* had to pay their own subordinate establishment, while an independent staff of 8 *amins*, paid by the State, was maintained to measure up new lands and to check measurements generally.

"The introduction of the *lakpa* system was expensive, increasing expenditure on land revenue account from Rs. 4,842 in 1893-94 to Rs. 29,373 in 1895-96, the year in which it was first brought into full working, but it proved for a time very successful in raising the percentage of collections. At the end of three years, however, an enormous accumulation of arrears, good and bad, amounting to Rs. 86,128 on March 31st, 1897, had again taken place, and no amount of exhortation or fining of *lakpas* availed to reduce it.

"A few weeks after taking charge, Babu Raj Kumar Rai submitted a note on the system he found in force, with suggestions for improvement, several of which have been adopted during the past year.

"In the first place, the charges of the *lakpas* being unwieldy in size, a beginning was made in reducing them by constituting the town of Imphal, which is a well recognized area, a separate *panna*.

"Next, every *lakpa* was ordered to furnish security, not as yet on the Assam scale of half or one-fourth of revenue to be collected, but for amounts varying from Rs. 5,000 down.

"All connection of the *lakpas* with settlement business or registration was put an end to, and this work was entrusted to the Sub-Deputy Collector working through his field staff. The performance of this portion of their duties by the *lakpas* had been marked by endless delay, and if report says true, had been converted by them into a fruitful source of illicit gain.

"Subject to appeal to the Superintendent of the State, and, of course, to his general control, the entire management of the State land revenue business in the valley devolved on the Sub-Deputy Collector.

"Lastly, to put an end to the confusion into which our records had fallen, owing to the absence of anything in the form of a *dagchitha*, to which the lands in any given *patta* could be referred, and from which it could be ascertained where lands were situated, steps were taken to have the whole valley roughly surveyed by rod during the past working season. The existing *amin* establishment was, therefore, abolished, and a temporary staff of 4 *kanungos* and 40 *amins*, on pay varying from Rs. 20 to Rs. 10, was organised, a survey school being started, in which candidates for *amins'* posts were first trained under the eye of the Sub-Deputy Collector himself.

"This staff was actually entertained from November, and proceeded to work in the field in that month.

"Up to 31st March an area of 193,724 *bighas*, or 64,041 acres, had been surveyed.

"The total area under *patta* at the close of the year 1896-97 was 33,985 *paris*, or 84,962 *acres*. An area of 1,522 *paris* was newly settled during the year, and of 321 *paris* relinquished, leaving the nominal area of 35,186 *paris* assessed to land revenue at its close, on which the demand, at Rs. 5 per *pari* (excepting for new lands, which were assessed at 10 annas per *bigha*), as Rs. 1,75,760—an increase of Rs. 5,635, as compared with the demand of the previous year.

"*Lalup* house-tax showed a slight decrease in demand from Rs. 53,018 to Rs. 52,470, due to revision of assessment, made on houses temporarily occupied for cultivation by persons already assessed in the town of Imphal.

"The following tables show the arrear and current demand, collections, and balances of both land revenue and *lalup* house-tax for the two past years, *panna* by *panna* :

1896-97.

Name of <i>panna</i> .	Demand.			Collections.			Balance.		
	Arrear.	Current.	Total.	Arrear.	Current.	Total.	Arrear.	Current.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
ANALLP									
land revenue	12,669	41,765	54,434	7,158	34,504	41,662	5,511	7,201	12,712
<i>lalup</i> house-tax	178	13,548	13,726	178	11,074	12,252	...	1,574	1,574
NAMARUP.									
land revenue	22,417	49,214	71,631	5,495	39,555	45,050	16,922	9,659	26,581
<i>lalup</i> house-tax	7,504	15,370	22,874	3,382	10,942	14,324	4,122	4,428	8,550
KHABAM.									
land revenue	13,451	37,442	50,893	6,447	31,934	38,381	6,986	5,508	12,494
<i>lalup</i> house-tax	243	13,506	13,749	243	11,390	11,633	..	2,116	2,116
LAIPHAM.									
land revenue	18,521	41,304	59,825	10,202	29,183	39,385	8,319	12,221	20,540
<i>lalup</i> house-tax	1,165	10,594	11,759	600	9,756	10,356	563	838	1,401
Grand total	67,040	1,69,925	2,36,965	29,302	1,35,176	1,64,478	37,738	34,741	72,487
Total <i>lalup</i> house-tax	9,088	53,018	62,106	4,403	44,062	48,465	4,685	8,956	13,641
Grand total	76,128	2,22,943	2,99,071	33,705	1,79,238	2,12,943	42,423	43,705	86,128

1897-98.

Name of <i>panna</i> .	Demand.			Collections.			Remissions.			Balance.		
	Arrear.	Current.	Total.	Arrear.	Current.	Total.	Arrear.	Current.	Total.	Arrear.	Current.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
ANALLP												
land revenue	12,772	41,956	54,728	7,150	38,304	45,454	4,126	...	4,126	1,496	3,652	5,148
<i>lalup</i> house-tax	1,734	9,420	11,154	1,158	8,734	9,892	...	...	...	576	680	1,256
NAMARUP.												
land revenue	26,581	47,979	74,560	8,295	44,801	53,096	9,408	...	9,408	8,178	3,176	11,354
<i>lalup</i> house-tax	8,550	7,016	15,566	3,070	6,472	9,542	1,768	...	1,768	3,722	544	4,266
KHABAM.												
land revenue	12,494	32,367	44,861	4,751	29,493	34,244	6,213	...	6,213	2,530	2,874	4,404
<i>lalup</i> house-tax	2,116	7,098	9,214	2,278	7,018	9,296	676	...	676	162	80	242
LAIPHAM.												
land revenue	20,640	39,749	59,389	12,082	34,565	46,647	4,177	...	4,177	5,115	4,444	9,559
<i>lalup</i> house-tax	1,401	10,719	12,120	567	11,167	11,734	41	...	41	1,224	...	1,265
Grand total	72,487	1,75,760	2,48,247	33,878	1,60,470	1,94,348	11,840	...	21,880	14,299	1,111	1,222
Total <i>lalup</i> house-tax	1,591	52,900	54,491	5,072	48,250	53,322	2,887	...	2,887	4,842	4,220	9,062
Grand total	86,288	2,28,660	3,02,738	38,950	2,08,720	2,47,670	26,727	...	26,767	19,571	19,510	39,081

"The total expenditure of the year on account of hill house-tax was, excluding Rs. 3,877, the cost of hill house-tax establishment, Rs. 38,400, against Rs. 24,644 in 1896-97.

"The details of the expenditure are as follows :

								Rs.
Sub-Deputy Collector's pay and allowances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,684
Office establishment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,914
Field	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	3,840
Lakpas' commission	...	...	.	...	.	...	...	25,970
Contingencies	...	..	...	.	...	..	...	4,992
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38,400

"9. The current demand of the year under hill house-tax amounted to Rs. 55,994 representing a gross demand of Rs. 59,727, assessed at Rs. 3 per house on 19,909 houses, as against Rs. 60,687 assessed on 20,222 houses in 1896-97. The decrease of 320 houses is due principally to the migration of Kukis across the borders of Manipur into independent territory near Somra, and to the Chin Hills, in the tract hitherto unoccupied on the west of the Manipur river. There was a falling-off in collections, compared with the previous year, only Rs. 43,318 being realised, against Rs. 55,179, leaving an arrear balance after remission of Rs. 981 old and of Rs. 13,779 current arrears. A sum of Rs. 840 on account of 28 guns tendered as revenue in the Moirang 'lam' is included in the amount remitted. The poor collections are due to urgent demands having been received from the Executive Engineer at the close of the year, for coolies for lime carriage, and repairs to the cart-road, the supply of whom interfered seriously with the prompt realisation of house-tax due. A larger arrear balance from the Moirang "lam," including 91 guns, arrived just too late for inclusion in the 1897-98 accounts.

"10. The fishery revenue in Manipur is, considering the limited size of the valley, a surprisingly important source of income, and one which appears to be steadily on the increase, the demand for fish being great, and the price paid for it by the people, according to Bengali ideas, excessive.

"The demand for the year was Rs. 25,812 current, and Rs. 5,112 arrear, of which Rs. 24,02 and Rs. 1,255, or Rs. 25,282 in all, was collected.

"Years of deficient rainfall would seem to favour lessees of fisheries, as the auction prices for 1898-99 again show an increase, the amount bid being Rs. 27,849 for 1898-99.

"12. The only ferry leased out is that across the Jhiri river. This ferry is managed by the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, half the price bid at auction being paid over to the Manipur State. The share of the State for 1897-98 was Rs. 940, which was duly realised.

"13. Under this head of revenue, Rs. 7,150 was realised, against Rs. 11,112 in 1896-97 and Rs. 8,855 in 1895-96. The falling-off is due to the difficulty of collecting the revenue from the hill salt-wells. The old system was to provide the salt-making Naga villages with iron *karais* for boiling the brine, and to levy a tax of Rs. 10 per annum on each *karai*. No *karais* having been provided for several years, the hill men are naturally unwilling to pay what is really a rent for the *karais*, now that they have to make shift without them. The wells in the valley are worked by Manipuris under lease, and the revenue upon them is raised without difficulty. The current demand against the latter was Rs. 4,515, of which Rs. 4,182 was collected. Of a current demand of Rs. 4,110 against the hill-wells, only Rs. 2,801 could be realised.

"For the reasons explained in last year's report, remissions to the extent of Rs. 2,015 had to be allowed in the case of arrears outstanding from 1896-97, and further remissions will have to be made during the forthcoming year. Provision has, however, been made for the purchase of *karais* to prevent a further shrinkage of revenue.

"There was no expenditure in the year under review under this head.

"14. From the State forests in Manipur, although these are capable of yielding a considerable income, practically no revenue is derived. The total receipt during the year amounted to Rs. 314, against an expenditure of Rs. 787.

"The two small reserved forests near Imphal, on the Langol and Heingang hills, have this season been successfully protected from fire. The growth of young forest is proceeding rapidly in the former, and favourably, but more slowly, in the latter, which is an isolated patch of pine. Cutting is not at present permitted in either reserve.

"15. The outturn of tea-seed belonging to the State was poor, 30 maunds only, as against 60 maunds in 1896-97 and 93 in 1895-96, being brought in. Price also was low, and the receipts amounted to Rs. 1,200 only, against Rs. 4,102.

"The expenditure of the year was Rs. 153 against Rs. 342. Including the State crop, the total transit trade in Burma seed, as registered at Jhairsighat, was 645 maunds, against 4,000 maunds in 1896-97.

"16. The whole excise revenue of the State is derived from a single country liquor shop in Imphal, the sale of the license for which yielded Rs. 1,061. The whole demand was realised.

"17. This allowance, granted to Manipur in 1834 in consideration of the retrocession to Burma by Maharaja Gambhir Singh of his conquests in the Kube Valley, is continued to the present Raja. Its value, commuted from 500 Sicca rupees per month, is now fixed at Rs. 6,270 per annum.

"18. The receipts under this head amounted to Rs. 5,230, against Rs. 4,858 in the previous year.

"The details are as follows :

	Rs.
Receipts of the Imphal pound	402
Sale proceeds of rice and <i>dhan</i> purchased as a precaution against scarcity	3,259
Grant-in-aid by Government to Imphal dispensary	650
Revenue fines and miscellaneous	919
Total	5,230

"19. The following paragraphs deal with the various branches of the administration not already treated of under the heads of Revenue.

"20. The total expenditure under this head was Rs. 29,231, against Rs. 23,639 in the previous year.

"The details of the expenditure are as follows :

Mayo College.

	Rs.
Salaries of Principal and House-guardian	5,400
Raja's personal establishment	1,132
Private expenses	6,250
Total	12,782
Maintenance of Raja's family and temples in Manipur	3,918
Pensions to exiles and detenus	6,110
Maintenance of Andaman prisoners	1,875
Contingencies and miscellaneous	4,546
Total	29,231

"The cost of the education of the young Raja and his half-brother at the Mayo College increased from Rs. 9,924 in 1896-97 to Rs. 12,782, and there was also a large increase from Rs. 1,055 to Rs. 4,546 under contingencies. This latter increase was due to expenses on account of earthquake repairs to the houses of exiles living in Sylhet, and to the Nar Singh temple in the same place, to the cost of the reception of the Chief Commissioner, to medical fees for attendance on the Raja during his illness in June, and to an allowance granted for the marriage of the Raja's eldest sister.

"24. The total expenditure under this head was Rs. 8,595, against Rs. 7,225 in the previous year. The details are as follows :

	Rs.
Office establishment of the Superintendent of the State	5,700
Miscellaneous establishments	2,621
Travelling allowances	215
Forms and stationery	1,007
Contingencies	700
Total	8,595

State public works.

"22. A summary of the principal heads of expenditure on account of State public works is subjoined :

Cachar-Manipur bridle-road.

	Rs.
Construction of, and repairs to, serais and rest-houses	3,059
Repairs to roads	5,305
Construction of, and repairs to, bridges	8,648
Tools and plant	481
Establishment	2,712
Total	<u>20,205</u>

Station and valley.

Construction of, and repairs to, State buildings	5,738
Ditto ditto bridges in Imphal	1,868
Ditto ditto bridges on valley roads	8,130
Municipal and sanitary improvements	1,322
Repairs to roads	748
Tools and plant	1,266
Municipal and State works establishment	5,005
Miscellaneous	2,128
Total	<u>25,605</u>

Manipur-Mao cart-road.

State contribution to repairs	30,000
Grand total	<u>75,810</u>

" Expenditure on the Cachar (Jhirighat) bridle-road was heavier than usual, being Rs. 20,205, against Rs. 15,025 and Rs. 15,760 in the two previous years. The increase was due to a large expenditure on bridge construction, and to thorough repairs of the road surface being undertaken. The road surface, which was in an extremely bad state, has now been remade almost throughout, from Bishenpur, as far as the Makru river, and, instead of an outward, has been given an inward slope. It was at the close of the year in excellent condition. From Makru to Godamghat the road is still excessively rough. This portion will be taken in hand early next cold season. On the low forest portion of the road between Jhirighat and Godamghat, a strip of forest on either side of the road has been felled and the road way raised. Four of the larger bridges on this section are being converted into suspension bridges, similar to those spanning the Barak and other large rivers on the road. On the purchase of wire ropes for these bridges, Rs. 4,016 was expended. The serais and rest-houses were maintained in good order throughout the year.

" Throughout the valley the roads are repaired by unpaid village labour, the larger bridges only being provided for from State funds. The road to Kanchupkhul, as far as the foot of the hills, was provided at a cost of Rs. 6,338 with timber bridges fit for wheeled traffic within the year. The first stage on the road to the Tangkhul hills was also raised and widened to adapt it for cart-traffic. The other valley roads were maintained in a good state of repair.

(a) Manipur-Mao cart-road.

" 23. The total expenditure of the year on this work was Rs. 1,20,984, of which Rs. 63,849 was expended on repairs and Rs. 57,135 on original works. The road was in good order and passable, although at times with difficulty in wet weather, throughout the year. The original work done comprised several new stone bridges, in particular a large 3-arched bridge over the Makhan stream, two stone bungalows completed at Mao and Maram, respectively, and two others, on which work was well advanced by March 31st, at Kangpokpi and Kanglatombi.

(b) New Residency.

" The new residency was almost completed as to internal fittings during the year. Furniture for the dining-room, drawing-room and Political Agent's study was supplied by the Public Works Department at a cost of Rs. 2,500. The building was for the first time occupied on the occasion of the Chief Commissioner's visit.

(c) Manipur Cantonment.

" Work on the sanctioned cantonment within the *pât* was vigorously prosecuted, the building of unmarried men's barracks in the corner of the *pât*, opposite the residency, being far advanced.

" The expenditure during the year was Rs. 1,42,206 and total to date Rs. 1,81,146.

" 24. Fever in an epidemic form and of a fatal type was prevalent throughout the valley during the rainy season. There were no epidemics of cholera or small-pox. At the beginning of the cold weather, the Naga villages on the northern frontier near Mao were also attacked with epidemic fever, and great mortality resulted. The half dried up condition of the *bhils*, and even of the Logtak lake, probably helped to produce this unusually severe type of fever in Manipur, for, as a rule, the Manipuri population suffers marvellously little from the effects of malaria.

Public health and sanitation.

" Owing to the scanty rainfall in March following on two years of unusual dryness, a great scarcity of water is now being experienced over the whole valley. The well in the sadr bazar, referred to in last year's report, has long been virtually dry, and the only good drinking water in the station available to the public has been that from the carefully protected "serai" tank. I have no doubt of the superiority of tanks over wells in Manipur as a source of supply for drinking purposes, provided they are deep, kept free from weed, and protected from pollution.

" Conservancy arrangements in the station and cantonment are good, and the incinerators continue to work satisfactorily.

" There is one dispensary only in Manipur, that in Imphal. The daily average of out-patients attending it in 1897 was 27.21, against 27.39 in 1896, and of in-patients 7.91, against 9.61. Six major and 74 minor operations were performed. The former were all cases of lithotomy, 4 being successful. Hospital Assistant Lachman Pershad is well spoken of by Surgeon-Captain Wood, Civil Surgeon, but there is great need of a second Hospital Assistant to look after the jail and police hospitals, and to assist in times of epidemic.

Dispensary.

" Excluding vaccination, the State expenditure under head Medical was as follows

								Rs
Allowance to Civil Surgeon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,200
Hospital establishment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	766
Bazar medicines	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	1
European medicines	.	.	.	...	...	...	...	809
Diet of patients	..	...	...	...	.	...	...	670
Contingencies	.	...	...	...	..	...	...	715
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,158

" The pay of the Hospital Assistant is borne by Government, which also furnishes a grant-in-aid of Rs. 650 towards the dispensary expenses.

" The total number of vaccinations performed during the year was 19,054, of which 18,969, or 99.55 per cent., were returned as successful. Successful vaccinations in the two previous years numbered 16,708 and 17,319. Vaccination is popular in Manipur, and, among the more juvenile portion of the population, is almost universal. The total expenditure incurred by the State on vaccination account was Rs. 1,544, of which Rs. 834 was for salaries of vaccinators, and Rs. 710 on account of lymph and contingencies. The average cost per successful operation was anna one and pies two.

Vaccination

Law and Justice.

" 25. The Courts having jurisdiction in Manipur are—

- (1) the Court of the Political Agent ;
- (2) the Court of the Superintendent of the State ;
- (3) the Court of the Assistant Political Agent in his capacity as Assistant to the Superintendent of the State ;
- (4) the *Chirap* Court ;
- (5) the Courts of the Town and Rural *Panchayats*.

" All cases in which British subjects are concerned as accused in criminal cases, or as defendants in civil suits, are disposed of by the Political Agent.

" In his Court on the Criminals department were dealt with 23 cases proceeded to trial, in which 20 persons were convicted and 3 acquitted. Two of the convicted were Europeans. One of these, two train port drivers were charged with killing a Native, but were discharged for want of evidence, and the other was the case of the Naga on whom referred to in paragraph 4, in which a conviction was recorded, but reversed on the case coming before the Chief Commissioner for confirmation. The other cases were not important.

" On the Civil side, 69 suits were instituted during the year, and 70, of which 40 were contested, disposed of in addition to 29 miscellaneous and intestate cases. The sum of Rs. 505 was realised from the sale of court-fee stamps and credited to Government.

"The Superintendent of the State disposes as an appellate court of appeals from decisions of the *Chirap* Court, and, as an original court, of criminal, civil and miscellaneous cases. criminal appeals were preferred during the year. Of civil appeals, 63 were instituted, 43 decided and 51 remained pending at the close of the year.

"On the Criminal side the Superintendent of State disposes of all police cases in Imphal and of such cases in the valley as are not within the competence of the *Chirap* Court, or been specially referred to the police for enquiry. The very few criminal cases brought to him among hillmen are also disposed of by him. The annexed table shows the details of offences reported and cases tried in the Court of the Superintendent of the State, cases found false being omitted :

Description of offences.	Number of offences reported.	Cases actually brought to trial.	Persons		
			Aquitted.	Convicted.	Total.
Murder ...	1	1	..	...	...
Culpable homicide ...	1	1	...	1	1
Robbery and dacoity ...	8	1	...	1	1
Theft, house-breaking, etc.	128	15	8	10	18
Cattle-theft ...	10	10	9	10	19
Other offences ...	87	65	11	115	126
Total ...	235	92	28	137	165

"As an original Civil Court, the Superintendent of the State disposed of 39 cases out of 40 instituted. These were almost all cases in which British subjects sued Manipuris. All such cases in future be referred to the *Chirap* Court.

"Miscellaneous cases are cases of a civil nature involving hillmen, or of a political nature between hill villages. Various matters of an executive nature are also included. Of such cases 319 were instituted and 301 decided, as against 185 decided in the previous year.

"The following table shows the work disposed of by the *Chirap* Court and the Town *Panchayat* :

Courts.	Appeals				Original cases.			
	Pending at beginning of year.	Instituted.	Decided.	Remained pending	Pending at beginning of year.	Instituted.	Decided.	Pending
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>Chirap</i> —								
Civil ...	14	85	47	52	28	366	264	
Criminal ...	...	...	...	...	...	55	44	
Town <i>Panchayat</i> —								
Civil ...	...	...	...	...	1,142	544	1,535	
Criminal ...	...	...	...	...	5	12	17	..

"The *Panchayat* Court has, it will be seen, succeeded in working off its heavy list of arrears.

"26. The annexed table shows the strength of the State Military Police force at commencement and close of the year, respectively :

	European officers.	Native officers.	Non commissioned.	Total
Sanctioned strength ...	1	13	50	3,6
Strength, 31st March 1897...	...	13	50	338
Strength, 31st March 1898...	...	13	50	336

" The distribution of the force at outposts on 31st March 1898 was as follows :

					Native officers.	Non-commissioned officers.	Men.
Kohima road (3 posts)	...	...	...	...	...	5	18
Cachar " (4 " )	...	...	...	...	...	1	16
Burma " (2 " )	...	...	...	...	...	2	11
Shuganu ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6
Tangkhuil Hills (3 posts)	...	...	...	...	1	4	24

" There has been a great improvement in the State Police force since the adoption of the system of payment wholly in cash, instead of partly in cash and partly in land.

" The casualties during the year were 6 deaths, 19 dismissed, 27 discharged at own request, and 4 as medically unfit, total 56 ; absence without leave continues to be the principal offence. One rifle was stolen during the year, under circumstances which make it probable that a sepoy was the offender.

" The details of expenditure on account of the State Police force for the past three years are compared below :

—							1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
1							2	3	4
							Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Pay and travelling allowance of Commandant	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,166	12,402	33
Pay of the force	...	...	...	...	...	...	39,369	46,415	42,601
Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,187	5,541	5,685
Forms and accoutrements	...	...	...	...	...	...	846	7,933	1,096
Bothing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,817
Medical charges	...	...	...	...	...	...	659	194	470
Medical establishment	...	...	...	...	...	...	600	600	600
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,900	3,412	3,176
Pay of Civil Police	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,292	2,734	2,423
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	53,025	79,231	58,901

" 27. The total number of admissions into the State jail during the year was 7 political prisoners, 74 under-trials, and 72 convicts. The daily average in confinement was 53 convicts and 7·7 under-trial prisoners. The number of prisoners confined on the 31st March was 41 convicts and 14 under-trial prisoners, as compared with 75 convicts and 21 under-trials on the corresponding date of 1896-97. The daily average of sick was 5·26 against 2·62, and 3 deaths, 2 from fever and 1 from dysentery, occurred during the year. There were 10 escapes, against 17 in 1896-97, and 6 escaped prisoners were recaptured. The convicts were employed principally on road-making and tank-digging in Liphai. The system of out-jails, of which there were 3 at the beginning of the year, was abandoned, as the labour in these establishments was in no sense penal, and the convicts, who were practically under no supervision, could be more usefully employed in the station.

" The following table compares the expenditure of the past three years :

—							1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
1							2	3	4
							Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67	159
Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	...	930	3,435	2,156
Establishment	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,515	1,740	1,558
Bothing	...	...	...	...	...	...	332	648	422
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	914	868	841
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,691	6,758	5,136

" The cash receipts were Rs. 114, against Rs. 73 in the previous year.

"28. At the close of the year there were 9 primary and 1 middle English schools open in Manipur. Of the primary schools, 4 are in Imphal, 3 at villages in the valley, and two at villages in the hills. One new school Thobal was opened during the year. The language taught in the primary schools is Bengali. The annexed table gives details of the attendance in the different classes of schools :

Class of schools.					Number of schools.	Number of scholars on the roll, 31st March 1897.	Number of scholars on the roll, 31st March 1898.	Average attendance per year.
1					2	3	4	5
Middle English	...	...	...	...	1	50	43	24
Primary	...	...	...	...	9	554	568	375

"The Johnstone Middle English School, an Institution aided by Government, shows a falling off in numbers, due to the opening of a regimental school, which took away a number of Gurkha children.

"This school is at present in a transition stage. Up till two years ago, it was virtually a primary school with an attendance of over 100 boys. These having mostly been drafted off to the new primary schools, the number of pupils reached a very low figure, and can only be increased by the entrance of boys who have passed the Lower Primary Examination from the *pathsalas*. Eight so passed at the last examination, and to encourage them, scholarships of Rs. 2 each have been awarded to all of them joining the Johnstone School.

"That there was no greater increase in the attendance at primary schools, is to be attributed to the unhealthy nature of the season from April to November.

"The State expenditure on education during the year amounted to Rs. 4,760, which was distributed as follows :

					Rs.			
Contribution to Johnstone School	500		
Salaries to teachers of primary schools	1,796		
Purchase of books and stationery	1,161		
Buildings	497		
Inspection	400		
Miscellaneous	406		
Total					...	4,760		
Expenditure in 1896-97					...	4,619		

"29. Three postal lines are kept up in Manipur, of which two, *viz.*, the line to Kohima and Upper Assam and that to Tammu on the Burma frontier, are maintained by the State. The third to Silchar, which is the main line of communication with India, is wholly maintained by Government.

"Details of the outlay by the State on postal communication are given below :

					Rs.			
Tammu line	660		
Kohima "	3,532		
Kairong post office	192		
Miscellaneous	183		
Total					...	4,567		
Total for 1896-97					...	4,555		



"30. Expenditure under this head amounted to Rs. 11,418. The principal item was one of Rs. 6,433 expended on the purchase of rice and *dhan* at the beginning of the year in the anticipation of a further period of high prices and scarcity. Fortunately for the State, this anticipation was not verified; but as prices fell to a very low point, and have not yet risen, the State will be rather a heavy loser on this particular transaction.

Miscellaneous expenditure.

"Among other items included under this head were Rs. 1,400 for expenses of the celebration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, Rs. 319 for the purchase of ancient Manipuri manuscripts and Rs. 600 for the purchase of an Australian pony-stallion for stud purposes.

"The Manipuri manuscripts, 25 in number, which were bought for the State library, are all written in the ancient "Meithei" character, now gradually becoming obsolete. A few of the works are of historical interest, but the majority are of a mythological nature. Including a number purchased since the close of the year, it is probable that the collection of these old Manipuri works now in the State library comprises the greater portion still extant of this ancient literature. I have been at considerable pains to make the collection as full as possible. It now remains to have the books transliterated and translated, while a fair number of Manipuri *pandits* still remains capable of carrying out the work. The language used is often obscure and unintelligible to the modern Manipuri.

"31. The number of licenses for the possession of fire-arms at the end of 1896 was 66, of which 15 were in possession of British and 51 of State subjects. One license was cancelled and 9 new licenses were granted in 1897, leaving 74 licenses at the end of the year, of which British subjects hold 22 and State subjects 52.

Fire-arms.

"32. The Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress was celebrated in Manipur on the 21st June and three following days with great enthusiasm. Twenty-five prisoners were released in honour of the occasion, and Manipuri and Naga *nautches*, polo, hockey matches, sports, and pony-races, and a display of fire-works also formed part of the celebrations, all being attended by great crowds of spectators.

Diamond Jubilee.

"33. The great earthquake of 12th June, which proved so calamitous throughout the greater part of the province of Assam, was felt in Manipur as a severe shock, but was not of sufficient violence to do any serious damage. One or two chimneys were shaken down in the station, a retaining wall near Khongnem-Makhong guard on the Kohima road collapsed, and some damage was done to the rest-house, built of sundried bricks, at Nungba on the Cachar road. No life was lost. The new residency, a massive brick building just completed, was quite uninjured. The shock is said by Manipuris, who remember the earthquake of January 1869, to have been of far less intensity than that felt on that disastrous occasion.

Earthquake of 12th June.

"34. Manipur was garrisoned throughout the year by the 44th Gurkha Rifles, and till March three companies of the 43rd Gurkha Rifles also formed part of the garrison. Two of these three companies left Manipur in March *en route* for Gilgit, and shortly after the close of the year, the remaining company was also transferred, leaving the garrison at its normal strength of one regiment. The Kaopum guard on the Cachar road and the Khongnem-Makhong guard on the Kohima road are held by detachments from the regiment in Manipur. The Kalanaga guard on the Cachar road, is garrisoned by troops from Silchar.

Military.

"35. The Aya Parel Major released during the previous year died during the past year at Brindaban. The other political prisoners and detenus are living quietly at Sylhet, Brindaban, and Hazaribagh.

Political prisoners.

"36. His Highness Chura Chand Raja and his half-brother Digendra Singh resided at the Mayo College, Ajmere, throughout the year. Both brothers are very favourably reported upon, and their education is progressing satisfactorily. The Raja suffered from a severe and even dangerous attack of typhoid fever in June, but happily made a good recovery. During the current year the two brothers are spending their vacation in the hot season with Colonel Loch at Mussoorie.

The minor Raja.

PART I.—RECEIPTS OF THE STATE.

Heads of Receipts.					1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.	Land Revenue	...	...	...	1,81,825	1,62,691	1,54,478	1,94,041
2.	Lalup house-tax	...	...	...	52,760	49,892	49,822	54,000
3.	Hill house-tax	...	...	...	60,191	54,563	55,179	40,000
4.	Fisheries	...	...	...	14,194	26,521	14,063	25,000
5.	Zamindaris in British India	...	...	...	6,029	35,711	1,645	...
5a.	Stamps...	...	...	...	292	...	...	1,000
6.	Ferries	...	...	...	330	387	287	1,000
7.	Salt Revenue	...	...	...	9,601	8,855	11,112	7,000
8.	Forests	...	...	...	1,142	1,538	1,118	3,000
9.	Tea-seed	...	...	...	1,141	5,137	4,102	1,200
10.	Law and Justice	...	...	...	3,733	3,467	5,204	6,000
11.	Jail	...	...	...	160	8	75	1,000
12.	Excise	...	...	...	950	2,001	333	1,000
13.	Kubo Valley compensation	...	...	...	6,270	6,270	6,270	6,000
14.	Miscellaneous	...	...	...	5,240	3,476	4,858	5,000
Total					3,43,858	3,60,517	3,19,445	3,46,000
Add—Opening balance					...	...	...	1,28,000
Grand total					...	...	...	4,74,000

PART II.—EXPENDITURE OF THE STATE.

Heads of Expenditure.						1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98
						1	2	3	4
1. Land Revenue	...	...	...	...		R ^s . 17,623	R ^s . 29,373	R ^s . 28,568	R ^s . 42,
2. Zamindaris in British India	...	...	...	...		5,655	2,164	...	...
3. Salt	...	...	...	...		577	1,322	...	...
4. Forests	...	...	...	...		355	1,045	807	
5. Tea-seed	...	...	...	...		132	465	342	
6. Raja's Civil List	...	...	...	...		13,789	24,027	23,639	29,
7. State establishment and contingencies	...	...	...	...		8,207	8,196	7,225	8,
8. State works	...	...	...	...		82,866	85,047	73,829	75,
9. Police	...	...	...	...		53,351	53,026	79,231	58,
10. Jail	...	...	...	...		5,271	3,934	6,758	5,
11. Medical	...	...	...	...		6,365	8,354	5,972	6,
12. Education	...	...	...	...		1,677	4,581	4,619	4,
13. Postal	...	...	...	...		4,655	4,556	4,555	4,
14. Expedition and tour charges	...	...	...	...		9,484	396	4,000	
15. Indemnity and tribute	...	...	...	...		87,500	65,566	50,000	50,
16. Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...		3,699	3,547	12,527	11,
Total	...	...	...	...		3,01,206	2,95,599	3,02,072	2,98,
Add—Closing balance	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	1,76,
Grand total	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	4,74,

"APPENDIX B TO THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT, MANIPUR POLITICAL AGENCY, 1897-98.

SHOWING ACTUAL COLLECTIONS AGAINST THE DEMANDS OF STATE REVENUE.

Heads of Revenue.	Demand.			Collections			Remissions.			Balances.			Remarks.
	Arrear.	Current.	Total.	Arrear.	Current.	Total.	Arrear.	Current.	Total.	Arrear.	Current.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1. Land Revenue	72,487	1,75,760	2,48,247	33,878	1,60,470	1,94,348	23,880	...	23,880	14,729	15,290	30,019	
2. Land house-tax	13,801	52,470	66,271	6,072	48,250	54,322	2,887	...	2,887	4,842	4,220	9,062	
3. Hill house-tax	4,038	55,994	60,032	1,893	41,435	43,318	1,174	780	1,954 ^a	981	13,779	14,760	^a Includes remission of Rs. 840 for 28 guns.
4. Fisheries	5,112	25,812	30,924	1,255	24,027	25,282	...	1,205	1,205	3,857	580	4,437	
5. Zamindar's in British India ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5a. Stamps ... ..	...	1,057	1,057	...	1,057	1,057	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Ferries	100	940	1,040	100	940	1,040	...	...	...	...	...	...
7. Salt Revenue	2,182	8,625	10,807	167	6,983	7,150	2,015	...	2,015	...	1,642	1,642	
8. Forests ... ..	...	314	314	...	314	314	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Tea-seed ... ..	...	1,200	1,200	...	1,200	1,200	...	...	...	...	...	...
10. Law and Justice ... ..	...	6,003	6,003	...	6,003	6,003	...	...	...	...	...	...
11. Jail ... ..	...	113	113	...	113	113	...	...	...	...	...	...
12. Excise ... ..	...	1,060	1,060	...	1,060	1,060	...	...	...	...	...	...
13. Kubo Valley compensation ... ..	...	6,270	6,270	...	6,270	6,270	...	...	...	...	...	...
14. Miscellaneous ... ..	...	5,230	5,230	...	5,230	5,230	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	97,720	3,40,848	4,38,568	43,355	3,03,352	3,46,707	29,936	1,985	31,941	24,409	35,511	59,920	



3. The Chief Commissioner visited Manipur *via* Kohima on the 27th January, and left the 2nd February, returning by the same route. During his visit he discussed at length with Mr. Porteus and the Deputy Collector the principles on which the land settlement then in progress should be conducted, and he took the opportunity to impress upon them the necessity of conducting the operations in the simplest manner possible. He decided that a cadastral survey, which had been at first contemplated, was not called for, and that only a rough rod survey should be carried out it being most important that the land revenue system established during our period of regency should be on such simple lines that it can be maintained by the Raja without difficulty when he succeeds to the *gaddi*. The questions of the administration of the State forests, and of the amount of the contribution of the State towards the annual maintenance charge of the Manipur road, which have formed the subjects of separate correspondence with the Government of India, were also discussed, and enquiries were made with a view to selecting a site for the future residence of the Raja.

BHUTIAS.

4. The Bhutias bordering on the Kamrup district were quiet and behaved well during the year. The only occurrence of note was the migration to the Khasi Hills of some 90 Bhutias who had left their homes on the Kamrup frontier in fear lest they should be impressed as coolies to repair the houses of the Oomla Lama which were destroyed in the earthquake of the 12th June 1897. The Oomla Lama made a request that these people should be sent back to him, but was informed, through his subordinate, the Badaru Lama, who met the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup at Darranga, that the British Government would neither force them to return, nor place any obstacles in their way should they of their own free will desire to return. It has since been ascertained that all, with the exception of four, were previously resident in British territory. They have been allowed to settle in the Khasi Hills, and a watch is being kept on their movements. The incident is not of importance and is not likely to lead to any complications.

A guard, consisting of 1 havildar, 1 naik, 1 lance naik, and 10 sepoy of the 42nd Gurkha Rifles, and 1 writer-constable and 2 constables of the Civil Police, was stationed at Darranga; and a guard of 1 jemadar, 1 havildar, 2 naiks, 2 lance naiks, 1 bugler, 22 sepoy, and 1 doctor of the 42nd Gurkha Rifles, and 1 writer-constable and 2 constables of the Civil Police, was stationed at Subankhata during the cold weather of 1897-98.

5. The Darranga and Subankhata fairs lasted, as usual, from 1st January 1898 to 31st March 1898; the former was attended by 1,500 Bhutias, against 1,200 in 1896-97, and the latter by 900 Bhutias, against 500 in 1896-97. The total number of Bhutias who attended the fairs during the year was 2,400, against 1,700 in 1896-97, showing an increase of 700, which is said to be attributable, to some extent, to the Bhutias in the hills having sustained the loss of their crops owing to the earthquake of the 12th June 1897, and been thus compelled to come to the plains for rice. The trade statistics show that articles to the value of Rs. 15,687 and Rs. 7,052, respectively, were imported to, and exported from, Darranga fair, against Rs. 5,647 and Rs. 9,752 in 1896-97. The decrease in the exports occurred chiefly under the head of *eri* silk, the export of rice having increased. Articles to the value of Rs. 2,262 and Rs. 3,263, respectively, were imported to, and exported from, Subankhata fair, against Rs. 1,951 and Rs. 2,279 in the year 1896-97. The increase in the trade done at this fair may be due, to some extent, to the shop-keepers using short weights as a result of the warning they received in the previous year.

Both these fairs passed off quietly, and the general health of the people attending the fairs was good.

6. The Bhutias visiting the Udalguri and Ghagrapara fairs gave no trouble. No reliable statistics of the numbers that attended are available, but it is said that comparatively few Bhutias visited the Udalguri fair, while the number that came to Ghagrapara fair did not show so great a falling-off. At both fairs the imports from the hills showed a decline, and the exports an increase.

The usual annual allowance of Rs. 5,000 was paid to the Bhutias by the Subdivisional Office of Mangaldai on the 26th February 1898, together with other presents, and in return they presented to the Government 1 pony, 2 blankets, 6 handkerchiefs, 2 Bhutia cups, and Rs. 100 in gold.

The Charduar Bhutia Sat Rajas came in to Tezpur on the 21st February 1898, and were paid their *posa* allowance of Rs. 2,526-7 in cash with other presents. They in return presented one yak's tail, 3 grey blankets, and a bag containing some spices.

The Thebengia Bhutias visited Tezpur on the 14th March 1898 and took their *posa* allowance of Rs. 145-13-6 with the usual accompaniment of scarlet broad cloth, etc.

The Bhutias who came down to receive *posa* payments this year were clearly given to understand that they have no longer any *bahotiya* claims upon any of our plains people, and that there must be no oppression or extortion practised against any of our subjects on pain of stopping their *posa* payments.

AKAS.

7. The Kapaschor Akas visited Tezpur on the 12th March 1898, and received their *posa* allowance of Rs. 536 and presents of cloths, etc. They presented to Government one sword and eight bows and arrows. The Hazarikhoa Akas came down on the 15th April 1898, and received their *posa* allowance of Rs. 100 in cash with the usual presents of cloth, etc., and gave 5 blankets as a present.

DAFLAS.

8. A woman named Parano, who was one of a party of twelve coolies of the Dikrai tea garden in Darrang who deserted from the garden in August 1896 and wandered into the Dafia Hills, arrived at a neighbouring garden in May 1897, having made her escape from the Hill Daffas, by whom the party had been detained as slaves. From subsequent enquiries it appeared that two of the coolies had since died in the hills, and three, including Parano, had escaped. The *posa* usually paid to the Hill Daffas was stopped to compel the restoration of the remaining captives, five of whom have since been recovered.

The conduct of the Daffas was otherwise generally good, and *posa* was paid to the plains Daffas as usual.

9. A small party of Apa Tanangs came down early in the cold weather to enquire if they might trade as usual. They were allowed to do so. Another party of 30 or 40 men came down subsequently, and were employed at Joyhing and Kodom gardens. They went back to their villages after staying for about three weeks in the plains, and no difficulty arose in connection with their visit. The leaders in last year's raid are said to have been fined by their community.

The Dafia settlement at Hatilung is reported to be unhealthy, and the *gaonbura* or headman is anxious to remove elsewhere.

MIRIS.

10. Our relations with the Tarbotia and Panibotia Miris were satisfactory. The Subdivisional Officer, North Lakhimpur, visited the Panibotia Miri village of Beni in February last for the purpose of inspecting the trigonometrical survey pillars, and was hospitably entertained. He understood that there would be no difficulty in penetrating a considerable distance into the Miri Hills.

A sum of Rs. 837 in cash and salt to the value of Rs. 69 were paid to these Miris as *posa*.

The conduct of the Saraks was as good as could be desired. They had a large camp at Bordoloni as usual. A sum of Rs. 249-7-9 was paid to them as *posa*.

The Ghasi Miris at Chauldhoa and on the Dhal river made no complaint during the year against the hill Ghasis. Large numbers of these men came, as usual, to Dibrugarh.

ABORS.

11. Many Doba Abors visited Dibrugarh, as usual, to receive their *posa*, and their conduct was satisfactory throughout the year.

Doba Abors.

A Doba Abor of the Parek Hills, north-west of Dijnur, came down to live in British territory, having left the hills, as he stated, through fear of being sold to Abors further up the hills as a punishment for intriguing with a woman. He was ordered to live at Kopsan Chapori, but went back to his home without permission.

12. Large numbers of the Passi Meyongs visited Dibrugarh to make purchases in our bazars. Now-a-days they rarely go to Sadiya, as they receive no *posa*. Some twenty families have settled in the plains, and there are numbers of others who wish to follow their example, if permitted to do so. With regard to Passis settling in the plains beyond the Inner Line on the Sadiya frontier, the Chief Commissioner has issued orders that they may be allowed to remain, subject to the condition that they pay poll-tax to Government. This taxation has been insisted on with the object of demonstrating to the settlers that British territory extends to the foot of the hills and is not limited to the country south of the Inner Line.

Passi Meyongs.

13. The Bor Abors are still under blockade, but it is proposed to raise it next cold weather, if the tribe remains quiet and gives no trouble. It is reported that one rifle stolen during the Abor expedition of 1894 is still in the possession of the Silli gam.

Bor Abors or Padams.

MISHMIS.

14. The blockade against these tribes was raised during 1897-98. Large numbers of them visited Sadiya, and they were, on the whole, well behaved. The Assistant Political Officer, Mr. Needham, reports that some of them pulled all the large nails from the Ghoornioora bridge near Dikrang during the cold season, cutting them out of the wood with their *daos*. They have since been warned against such acts. It is reported that a few of them worked on the Bomjur road this year, and it is hoped that it will be possible to get more work done by them next year.

Gulikattas and Bebejyas.

15. As usual, large numbers of the Digarus visited Sadiya. The Deputy Commissioner's order referred to in last year's report, prohibiting their entering British territory south of the Brahmaputra without a pass from the Assistant Political Officer, Sadiya, was fairly effective. The Assistant Political Officer received notice that a good many of them had crossed the river without passes and were tapping rubber in

Digarus.

the forests on the south side of the Brahmaputra. He made several attempts to arrest them, without success. Some Digarus found in Dibrugarh without passes were arrested, and sent Sadiya under an escort of Military Police. These people asked for permission to seek rub on the right bank of the Dihong and to the north of Sadiya, but were prohibited from crossing the Dihong, as their doing so might cause complications with the Pasais. They will also be prevented from tapping rubber in the jungles to the north of Sadiya which are claimed by Chulikaitas.

KHAMTIS AND SINGPHOS.

16. All the Khamtis bordering on Sadiya have been well behaved during the year under report. Under the permit given last year to hunt elephants the Difu Khet beyond the Inner Line, Chousa Gohain, the Khamti Chief, and Ningru Samon, the Singpho Chief, jointly caught five elephants and paid Rs. 500 royalty. The conduct of the Khamtis at North Lakhimpur was satisfactory.

17. The conduct of our Singpho neighbours was all that could be desired. Ningru Samon and a few other chiefs owning our allegiance are now discarding the religion of their forefathers (which consisted in propitiating evil spirits called "nats" in Singpho) and taking to Buddhism, and they have erected *B. Changs* in their villages, which are in charge of *Bapus*, or priests.

A quarrel arose recently between the Singphos and Khamtis residing up the Nondih and Tengapani on account of a defamatory report said to have been spread by Ningru Samon's *Bapu* against a Khamti *Bapu* residing in a Phakial village near Margherita. Ningru Samon's *Bapu* is a young and inexperienced Singpho, while the other is a middle-aged venerable-looking Khamti, who has apparently acquired great influence among certain Khamtis. The latter travelled all over Burma, and possesses a long flat iron with a Burmese inscription engraved on it, which is said to have been given to him by an *ex-king* of Burma. The Khamti *Bapu* brought a case of defamation in Mr. Needham's court against Ningru Samon's *Bapu*. The facts of the case were that Ningru Samon's *Bapu* had published a report in Chousa Khamti chief's village to the effect that the Khamti *Bapu* lived with a woman and had had a child by her. Ningru Samon defended his *Bapu* with great vehemence, saying that he, too, had heard the report. When the case came up for trial, Mr. Needham found that the imputation was admittedly made, could not be substantiated, and directed Ningru Samon's *Bapu* to apologise publicly to the Khamti *Bapu* (the latter having stated he would be satisfied if this were done). The apology was made in the presence of a large concourse of Khamtis, Singphos, Dowaniyas, etc., who attended to hear the result of the case, which was thus satisfactorily settled.

NAGAS ON THE LAKHIMPUR AND SIBSAGAR FRONTIERS.

18. In consequence of frequent complaints of thefts of iron, cattle, etc., by Nagas, from the works of the Assam Railways and Trading Company at Ledo and Margherita, Mr. Needham was deputed to enquire as to who the culprits were, and what steps were necessary to prevent these petty crimes. From a report submitted by him it appears that the thefts which took place during the rains were the work of Nagas living close to Ledo, but that during the cold season the Rangpang Nagas were generally the thieves. For the purpose of preventing these thefts, the Chief Commissioner sanctioned an increase in the strength of the Military Police guards at Ledo from 11 to 20 men, and the establishment of a guard of 10 men at Tikak, the detachments being required to perform regular patrols in the neighbourhood. Since these measures were taken no more thefts have been reported. The removal of the Ledo stockade to a more suitable site was also sanctioned, and barracks are being built at the new site.

The coolie boy, Sonaya, who was kidnapped by a Tikak Naga and sold to Rangpang, in February 1897, was recovered during the year by the joint efforts of Malo Naga, Chief of Tikak, and Janhing, *gam* of Bisa, and the reward of Rs. 100 offered in the case was divided equally between them.

Twenty-five other coolies were recovered during the course of the year under report from the Phakial Singpho and Naga villages. Some of them said that they were kidnapped by Nagas and sold to other Nagas further up the hills, but all such statements should be accepted with caution, as most of the coolies fear prosecution and penalties if they admit having deserted. All these coolies had been employed by the Railway Company; those who had their agreements still to work out, were made over to the Company, and the others were discharged.

The Chief Commissioner has approved of a proposal that Mr. Needham should assume, for hill tracts in the neighbourhood of Margherita, the political functions which he exercises at Sadiya, and that, for this purpose, he should visit Margherita three or four times a year. The object of this arrangement is to establish a firmer political control over the Nagas of the Lakhon than has been possible to exercise hitherto.

Two Nagas of the Namsong Hills were tried on a charge of tapping rubber in reserve forest without pass. They were each sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for 15 days.

19. Nagas from the Phoilung, Mullung, Barshima, Khamlung, and Kangon *changs* paid visits of courtesy to the Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar, and, as usual, made presents of goats, spears, *daos*, etc., to Government.

As in the two previous years, a Military Police guard was stationed at Cherideo to prevent the Nagas of the Kangan and other *changs* from using the Tiru path. The Nagas gave no trouble, but did not pay any portion of the fine imposed upon them in 1895 for burning the godown of the Cherideo garden.

There were 6 cases—3 under the Indian Penal Code and 3 under the Bengal Excise Act, 1878,—against Nagas in the sadr subdivision, but none of them were of any importance.

Besides cases actually brought to trial, there were several thefts of paddy and cattle which, there can be little doubt, were committed by Nagas. A considerable number of stolen cattle are probably disposed of to Nagas by the thieves.

A complaint of ill-treatment made by some Nagas against the manager of a garden in Jorhat, where they had gone to trade, was on enquiry found to be false.

NAGA HILLS DISTRICT.

20. As in previous years, political relations were maintained with—

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| (i) The Trans-Dikhu tribes. | (iii) The Eastern Angamis. |
| (ii) The Semas. | (iv) The Manipur State. |

21. Our relations with the Trans-Dikhu tribes have been friendly throughout the year, and they have refrained from raiding into our territory, so no interference with them has been called for. Head-taking is as prevalent as ever among them, and the Deputy Commissioner, Naga Hills, fears that it will not cease until we assume some sort of control over them; but the Chief Commissioner is not prepared at present to sanction the extension of the system of political control to the tract east of the Dikhu.

22. In the Sema country, the village of Kyêku raided the village of Sakhai, killing 17 persons of that village. A dispute arose between these two villages as to the ownership of some land, to decide which the good offices of the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Davis, were invoked. He decided the case in favour of Sakhai. Kyêku village did not, however, abide by the award, but attacked Sakhai in September last, with the result stated. Captain Cole visited Kyêku's village in December last, but found the village deserted. He imposed a fine of Rs. 1,000; and as this was not paid up, he burnt the village, seizing cattle to the value of about Rs. 400. Towards the end of December, a man of Kyêku's village brought in Rs. 150 in cash, and asked for permission to work off the balance by punishment labour. This request was granted.

There was also a riot between Zimethu and Shevekhê villages. Shevekhê village is just outside the political control area, Zimethu being situated inside our boundary. A man of the latter village claimed to have purchased a *jhûm* from Sotomi village, and when he and others of his village went to clear the *jhûm*, Shevekhê village attacked them, wounding one man with a *dao*. The *gaonbura* of Shevekhê denied that any actual conflict had taken place, or that anyone belonging to Zimethu had been wounded. He stated that both villages were ready to fight, but refrained from doing so at the orders of their respective headmen. The riot took place in March 1898, and the final result of the enquiries made in the case is not known as yet.

The fine of Rs. 250 on Zimethu village, mentioned in last year's report, was realised.

Shevekhê village complained that towards the end of March, Yameshê, another independent village, cleared a *jhûm* on their land. On Shevekhê village expostulating, Yameshê challenged them to a fight, and attacked some of the Shevekhê men on the way to their fields, wounding one man in the leg with a spear. The Shevekhê men then turned out in force and chased the Yameshê men, capturing some spears, shields, and *daos* from the latter. A fine of Rs. 100 has been imposed on each village.

The bungalows along the Sema political road have been completed. The materials for the bridge over the Keleki river have arrived, and the bridge will be put up as soon as the masonry abutments are finished.

23. Nothing of note occurred amongst the Eastern Angamis of the political control

(iii) The Eastern Angamis. area.

The representatives of the naked Naga village of Lapvomi, east of the Lunice, and situated outside our political control area, complained that some of our Kukis had erected a village on their land, and that one of these Kukis shot a Lapvomi man in the leg. These Kukis originally came from Henima. They first settled at Aradhura close to Kohima, and then moved on to the Manipuri Naga village of Jessami, and now appear to have migrated into independent territory,—no doubt to evade the payment of revenue.

24. The behaviour of the Nagas in the district directly administered by the Deputy Commissioner was satisfactory. An addition of one Sub-inspector and 18 men was made to the sanctioned strength of the Civil Police force for the purpose of maintaining order on the cart-road between Dimapore and Kohima, and also of affording relief to sick and destitute contractors' coolies found near the railway works at Dimapore.

25. The following statement shows the number of gun licenses held for the year and classes of persons by which they were held :

Angami.		Lhota.		Kacha Naga.		Kuki.		Mikirs and Plains people.		Ao Naga.		Sema.		Jengma.		To
New.	Renewed.	New.	Renewed.	New.	Renewed.	New.	Renewed.	New.	Renewed.	New.	Renewed.	New.	Renewed.	New.	Renewed.	New.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3	446	..	24	...	67	...	101	4	411	1	9	1	21	...	35	1

In the previous year there were 1,123 licenses in force, and 10 licenses which were renewed by the licensees. In 1897, 1,114 licenses were renewed, 5 remained unrenewed at close of the year, and 14 were cancelled for various reasons. Four of the 9 new licenses taken were issued to Mikirs and plains people. There were 44 cases under the Arms Act during the year, against 7 in the previous year. The accused in all these cases were convicted.

26. The following statement shows the number of coolies impressed during the last five years at headquarters for the different departments :

Name of Department.							1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1
1							2	3	4	5	
Civil	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,016	1,008	1,009	592	
Police	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,150	1,737	2,664	1,521	
Military	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,535	3,778	309	9	
Telegraph and Postal	...	...	...	...	...	...	45	1,099	631	752	
Public Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	77,697	80,268	5,414	2,762	1
Survey party	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,626	...	...
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	86,443	91,516	10,027	5,636	1

27. Only slight damage was done to public works in the district by the earthquake of 12th June. Three new rest-houses were constructed on the road between Nichuguard and Mao. The state of the road during the rainy season is far from satisfactory, wheeled traffic being almost impossible. There is a great need of parapets along dangerous portions of the road. New waterworks for K. station were opened during the year.

28. The Chief Commissioner visited Kohima in January 1898, when he inspected the Military Police battalion, as well as the jail, dispensary and public offices.

KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS.

29. There was no change in the number of Seims, Sardars, Wahadadars, Longdoh Dollois. The only death reported among the Seims was that of U Rabon Singh, Seim of Nongstoin, whose brother, U Mon Singh, was confirmed in May 1897. Since his accession to the *gaddi*, some complaints of oppression have been preferred against him and his *mantris*, and in two cases some of his men were convicted and fined for assault. The Seim also made an attempt to increase the rates of the Shillong Bazar, but this was not allowed. Ron Singh appears to be somewhat inclined to carry things with a high hand, but complaints, when there are two contending parties, as is the case in Myllem, have to be taken *cum grano salis*.

Among Sardars there were two deaths,—the Sardar of Ramdait in the Khasi Hills in December 1897, and was succeeded by one, U Jophor, and the Sardar of Langsoh, Mikir in the Jaintia Hills, died in February 1898. The Subdivisional Officer, Jowai, has been asked to nominate a successor in his place.

The Seim of Nongkhilaw was conspicuous for the aid he rendered to his raiyats after the memorable earthquake of 12th June 1897. The Wahadadars of Shella seem to have been paralysed by that catastrophe, and have exhibited little energy in repairing damages caused by it. The niece of the old Seim of Cherra was killed in the earthquake. This has affected the succession, and there are now two rival parties in the State.

The dispute regarding certain villages and bazars between the Seims of Rambrai and Myriaw, referred to in last year's report, was settled during the year.

Generally speaking, the conduct of the Seims, Sardars, Dollois, and Wahadadars was satisfactory.

30. There were 497 gun licenses in force on the 1st of January 1897, of which two were cancelled, as the guns covered by them were found unserviceable. Four persons failed to renew their licenses in 1897. The remaining 91 licenses were duly renewed, and 13 new licenses were granted during the year. There were thus 504 gun licenses in force in the district on the 31st of December 1897. These figures do not accurately represent the number of guns in the district, as the Arms Act is only in force in British territory. During the year 250 lbs. of gunpowder were sold by the licensed vendors and a maund of blasting powder, half a maund of gunpowder and 850 lbs. of dynamite and blasting appliances were permitted to be imported by lessees of limestone quarries.

GARO HILLS.

The Garos.

31. There is nothing of importance to be noticed in connection with the Garos, who behaved well during the year.

32. The number of gun licenses issued was 646 in 1897, against 726 in the preceding year. Four new licenses were taken out and 642 renewals were granted; 263½ lbs. of gunpowder were sold by the two licensed shops at Jura and Mahendraganj; the quantity sold in the previous year was 374½ lbs.

NORTH LUSHAI HILLS.

33. Major Shakespear, C.I.E., D.S.O., assumed charge of the district as Political Officer on the 1st April 1897, and held the appointment throughout the year. The behaviour of the chiefs was good, and there were no signs of any disposition to resist the authority of the Political Officer. The preliminary arrangements for the transfer of the South Lushai Hills from Bengal to Assam were made without difficulty, and, on the 1st April 1898, the transfer was carried into effect, Major Shakespear being appointed to be the first Superintendent of the Lushai Hills.

34. The most important political events of the year were the raising of the house-tax from Re. 1 to Rs. 2 per house, and the reorganisation of the system of labour tribute and enhancement of labour tribute. These measures were undertaken, as the result of correspondence with the Government of Bengal, with the object of assimilating the systems in force in the North and South Lushai Hills in view of the approaching amalgamation of the two tracts into one district.

35. The realisation of house-tax at the enhanced rate was carried out without any difficulty, the people being allowed to pay in kind in cases where rice was required for rationing the Military Police outposts. The following table compares the demand, collections, and balances on account of house-tax for the years 1896-97 and 1897-98:

Year.	Villages.	Houses taxed.	Demands.			Collections.			Balances.			Commission paid.	Net receipt.
			Arrear.	Current.	Total.	Arrear.	Current.	Total.	Arrear.	Current.	Total.		
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
			P.	R.	R.	Rs.	1	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1897	89	8,514	350	8,514	8,874	360	7,341	7,701	..	1,103	1,101	69	6,936
1898	83	9,251	1,193	16,513	17,706	1,180	14,077	15,257	..	2,410	2,436	..	12,821

* 7,361 at Rs. 2 in cash, 1,391 at ½ maund rice, value at Rs. 2 a maund. | † Rs. 7 remitted to Lunglenn.

The Political Officer explains that a large amount of house-tax remained unpaid on the 1st April, because he was unable to assess many villages till his last tour in March.

36. The total expenditure on public works was Rs. 1,19,303, of which Rs. 10,000 was spent on the improvement of the Aijal-Sairang road, which was in charge of the Political Officer. Rupees 4,044 were spent on the survey and Rs. 29,816 on the construction of the Aijal-Lungleh road, which has been made passable for laden animals for a distance of 29 miles from Aijal. The line of the road from Aijal to Falam has been traced to within a few miles of Champhai, and made passable for ponies up to that point. The iron-work of the Sonai bridge was received and stored at the site, and the piers and wingwalls nearly completed, a sum of Rs. 6,475 being expended on the work. The arrangements for controlling the extensive public works required in this district have hitherto been defective, and proposals for revising them are under the consideration of the Government of India, but heavy expenditure will have to be incurred before the important lines of communication, which are necessary for the proper administration of the Lushai Hills, can be opened up.

37. Captain Loch held charge of the North Lushai Military Police Battalion throughout the year, Lieutenant A. H. Bridges acting as Assistant Commandant. With a view to preparing the way for the amalgamation of the North and South Lushai Battalions, Lieutenant Bridges was deputed to hold charge of the latter battalion from the 20th October 1897 to the 26th January 1898. Lieutenant G. Bailey, who was appointed to be Assistant Commandant of the South Lushai Battalion, joined at Aijal for preliminary instructions under Captain Loch on the 12th October, and remained there till the 28th December, when he left for Lungleh to relieve Lieutenant Bridges. In accordance with the recommendations of the Chin-Lushai Conference held in December 1896, the sanctioned strength of the whole police force to be employed in the Lushai Hills has been fixed at 1,106 men. Of this number, 104 men were organised during the year as a force of Civil Police for employment on duties of a civil character under the Political Officer, the existing force of 80 Civil Police stationed at Demagiri in the South Lushai Hills being utilised for the purpose, and supplemented by recruits obtained from Goalpara district. The two battalions of Military Police employed in the Lushai Hills were amalgamated as the combined Lushai Hills Battalion, with a sanctioned strength of 1,002 men under Captain Loch, with effect from the 1st April 1898.

38. During the preceding year 146 guns were licensed, and notices had been issued to the chiefs to bring in their guns to be licensed within a specified time. At first very few guns were brought in, and it was ascertained that in many cases the orders regarding the licensing of guns had not been explained to the people who looked on the promise to license a certain number as a ruse to get them to bring in their guns, when it was thought that Government would only return a very few. There was also a strong feeling abroad that all fines in future would be in guns, and that, therefore, it was wiser not to own to having one. For these reasons all confiscations were suspended for a time, and four trustworthy interpreters were sent round the whole district with a special letter explaining the orders of Government fully and pointing out that, if after this the people concealed their guns and got punished, the blame would rest on their own shoulders. The result of this action was satisfactory. Five hundred and six guns were licensed, and when subsequently unlicensed guns were found, there was no grumbling at the punishment inflicted.

During the year 121 guns were withdrawn, 23 on account of fines previously inflicted, the remainder being confiscated as unlicensed. Fines, amounting to Rs. 1,678-12, were imposed on this account, of which Rs. 906-12 had been paid on the 1st April 1898.

Information was received as to a considerable number of unlicensed guns still remaining concealed, which will be confiscated as soon as they are traced.

The total number of houses in the district is 10,397, and the number of guns which may be licensed at the sanctioned rate of 1 gun to 15 houses is 693, as against 506 actually licensed.

An export trade in guns to the Chin Hills is believed to exist. Only one case has actually been brought to notice, but it is probable that the Lushais are selling the unlicensed guns to avoid having them confiscated.

39. The Chief Commissioner has since the close of the year sanctioned the discontinuance of the system of insisting on passes being taken out by Lushais who desire to trade in Cachar. No statistics of trade are available, but business appears to be prospering in the Aijal Bazar, while there has been a falling-off in the business at Sairang. The tea-seed trade was again a failure. A lease of seed-bearing lands has been granted on favourable terms to a European tea planter, who has met with but little success up to the present.

40. Under the rules regarding impressed labour, which have now been adopted throughout the Lushai Hills, each house is liable to supply one coolie to work for ten days only, irrespective of the days occupied in coming and going to and from the work; but this liability is enforced only in cases of actual necessity. The rate of wages has been fixed at 8 annas a day, the days occupied in coming and going being paid for at half rates. The demand for impressed coolies was well complied with. The following statement gives approximately the number of coolies impressed during the year.

						Number of coolies employed for one day
For Public Works Department	...	...	...	...	...	46,057
" Military Police	...	...	...	...	...	19,336
						<u>65,393</u>

The total number impressed during the preceding year was 29,678. The Commandant of Military Police employed also 7,015 men for one day in Aijal, and a far larger number were employed by the Political Officer as voluntary labourers.

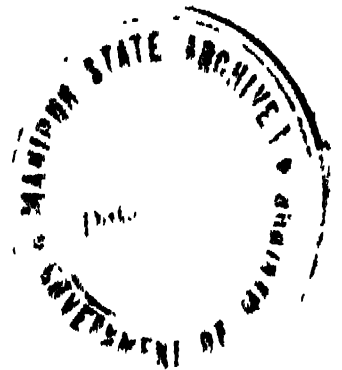
41. The corps of Khasia coolies did not give satisfaction, and in their place 150 Sonthal coolies were imported with the help of the Deputy Commissioner, Sonthal Parganas. These men are reported to have done well, and kept their health excellently.

Transport supplies.

The rationing of the outposts was done by Lushai coolies.

42. Messrs. Savidge and Lorrain, the pioneer missionaries, left the North Lushai Hills in January 1898, handing over their work to the Welsh Mission, which has been so successful in civilising the Khasias. The two gentlemen referred to have done most valuable work generally, and in particular in connection with the Lushai Dictionary and Hand-book, which has now been published by the Shillong Secretariat Press.

Education. During the year a school was opened for the first time at Aijal, at which 68 boys have learnt to read and write their own language.





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